



MindMerge

News

Thanks for your MoUs! Next steps....

June 8th, 2008

More work package changes - don't panic!

A clearer picture emerges of how work packages work and deliverables get delivered.

After the last newsletter, we received a number of additional PoDs, i.e. suggestions for work leading to deliverables. Several common themes have emerged regarding the type of deliverable which needs to be produced. At the moment, the process of collating the WPs is one of *bricolage*, i.e. assembling something from available components. But we also have to look at the Call and think about what we might need as opposed to what we have or what we are interested in, from a research perspective. More on this below.

Ten work packages: the final count?

We have decided to add one more work package in order to balance out the PoDs and to produce a more logical structure. We don't want to go beyond ten at the first level because that seems to

be the limit of what I can easily hold in my rather limited head. After that it is a question of sub-packages or PoDs but at least these need not all be considered at once. Apologies if the WP you are involved with has changed number again but the need for a logical structure in the proposal is paramount at the moment.

I considered moving WVP5, teacher education, into third place but it seems more sensible to leave it in the middle, i.e. it is central to the project as a whole.

The WPs by Topic are as follows:

- 1 Project management, evaluation and archiving
- 2 Innovative methods and teacher education policy
- 3 SINUS cross-national dissemination and development
- 4 Teacher collaboration and innovative methods
- 5 Innovative methods in teacher education: knowledge, practice, tools
- 6 Teachers and scientific literacy
- 7 Argumentation
- 8 Dialogical teaching & sustainable development: their implications for teachers
- 9 Indicators, instruments and measurement for innovative methods in science education
- 10 Media and dissemination: increasing the impact of innovations in science education

DVDs, Plone, downloads...M-Tube?

A number of partners have proposed the production of DVDs illustrating various aspects of science teaching practice. However, I have a box full of CD-Roms produced for another project which were obsolete within a few months of their production and failed to sell at any price. So I am wary of anything in a fixed format. A couple of colleagues (Kai Pata In Tallinn and Jari Lavonen in Helsinki) are involved in projects which suggest that a video bank using readily available content management

software (CMS) is within the bounds of possibility. This would allow for the availability of shorter clips as streaming video, whilst more elaborate productions (for which we might charge money?) would be available as downloads. It would of course be easy to run off a few DVDs to order as required. What do you think?

Books - but how many?

At least three partners (Scotland, Cyprus, Norway) have suggested the production of an edited book, probably on a case study basis. Given the tough task of selling academic books, is one enough? What are the different languages in which a book might sell, and would e.g. a French language text require different content as well as (obviously) being written in French?

Parents - the missing link?

Up until Friday none of the PoDs mentioned parents. Whilst they are not directly involved with delivering innovative methods, they are, along with students, the stakeholders with the most direct interest in effective teaching. And they are an interest group with whom we need to keep in touch. Hungarian colleagues led by Monika Reti are looking at what could be done in this area, including the production of a book for parents, designed to help with science learning and to explain investigative science.

The deliverables list

The deliverables list sent out last week is now obsolete and is being reworked as it is fed into the proposal. The Person-Months estimates were too low in many cases and especially in the case of thematic WPs where it is likely that positions will be created for long-term staff, e.g. in WP9 (indicators) where the work would be continuous throughout the project.

Also, the PoDs so far do not explicitly indicate how they will be linked between partners. This is one purpose of the thematic WPs, which will be the 'spaces' where connections between PoDs will be realised. However, it is also up to partners to identify areas of mutual interest with other partners

and to make explicit connections within and between PoDs.

The draft proposal, which will be circulated sometime in the middle of the night on Monday (or at least some of it) will include the table 1.2d formatted work package summaries. At the head of this summary is a table with a list of all partners and a person-month figure in relation to that thematic package. At the bottom is a list of deliverables. The final version of this summary will thus reflect each partner's overall involvement.

I will try to ensure that you are able to track your involvement between the WPs and deliverables.

There will also be a work package list and a deliverables list but these will circulate on Tuesday.

The other parts of the proposal are mostly descriptions of overall aims, strategy etc.

To make comments or note mistakes or to add items that I have forgotten, please do NOT use 'track changes' in Word. This will cause meltdown. Please put your comments etc. into a Word document, listed under page numbers, e.g.

P.4 remove reference to goats in second para.

The filename of your document should be of the form MM-your partner acronym-comments-0608, e.g.

MM-NTNU-comments-0608.doc

Thanks in advance - at all times, please feel free to shred (metaphorically) any documents which I send out - these are always intended as a basis for discussion NOT as finished products (unless of course they are finished, in which case they will be in .phew format

Grenoble meeting - agenda

(as per previous news)

We now have a list of who is coming to Grenoble, which is at the end of the newsletter.

As regards the agenda, we have the following suggestions (numbers in brackets refer to papers which will be circulated prior to the meeting or copied for participants):

0900-0910 Welcome and practical arrangements - Michel Grangeat & IUFM colleagues

0910-0930 Brief personal introductions including area of interest - all participants. we will also provide introductions to absent partners (Paper1)

0930-0935 General introduction and welcome to the project - Geir Karlsen, NTNU (Paper 2)

0935-0945 Outline of progress so far and what remains to be done - Peter Gray (Paper 3)

0945 - 0955 Administrative requirements - Hilde Roysland, NTNU (Paper 4)

0955-1005 Financial and budget issues - Per Andresen, NTNU (Paper 5)

1005-1015 Questions not covered already, short break

1015 - 1100 Presentation of Draft Proposal section B (the introductory material) - Peter Gray (Paper 6) This will be an interactive session where we will be able to alter the draft as we proceed.

1100-1115 Coffee break

1115 - 1200 Discussion in three groups:

Group one - terminology

Group two - emerging themes

Group three - achieving impact

1200-1230 Plenary discussion

1230-1300 Introduction to Work package section - Peter Gray (Paper 7)

1300-1400 Lunch, courtesy of IUFM

Work Package Drafts- outline and discussion led by WP leaders (or project leader if not decided)

1400-1430 WP1 - management structures and arrangements - GK

1430-1450 WP2 - Doris Jorde, University of Oslo

1450-1510 WP3 - Matthias Stadler, IPN

1510-1530 -WP4 - Michel Grangeat, UPMF

1530-1545 Coffee break

1545-1605 WP5 - Teacher education - TBA

1605-1625 - WP6 - Scientific Literacy - Bob Evans

1625-1645 - WP7 - Argumentation - Maria Pilar Jiminez Aleixandre/Margareta Enghag

1645-1700 Indicators - Tina Seidel (slides)

1700-1715 Media - Peter Gray

1715-1800 Final discussion and summing up - GK

This will be a long day but by the end of it we should have agreement on the overall form and content of the proposal.

In the evening Michel has arranged dinner at Chez Margo in Grenoble, we will leave the Hotel around 1930 and walk there.

On Tuesday we have a room booked at the University where anyone who does not have a flight in the morning or anything better to do, can finish off the proposal, or consult with us about specific issues.

We will arrange transport back to Geneva airport as necessary.

The Grenoble meeting: June 16th



Although we plan to circulate a draft proposal before the meeting, it is your project and we are expecting to change many aspects of the document as a result

of your input. It will also provide an opportunity to establish relationships within and across the work packages, based on mutual discussion of the issues involved and expertise required.

As the deadlines have been very tight for the project, we fully understand if you are unable to come to the Grenoble meeting. Given the size of the project and the fantastic quality of the people involved it would be surprising if everyone was able to attend. We will make every effort to keep people informed and consulted. It will be necessary for the smooth running of the project to accept that meetings have to go ahead and take action with less than the full complement of partners.

IF you aren't coming...

We would still like to have your virtual presence at the meeting, so if you can send a brief introduction to yourself, your institution and your contribution to the project, with a digital photograph, we will at least be able to read something and have a wall display of all the partners.

This is of course in addition to any comments or issues you would like to be raised at the meeting, which you should send in a Word document:

[MM-JYU-meeting160608.doc](#)

Travel to Grenoble

We now have everyone's travel details except for those colleagues from France making their own way to the meeting. You will be met at Geneva either by Peter or by another colleague. We will make ourselves visible at the arrivals gate. In

emergency contact Peter's mobile 00 33 (0) 684 88 07 97, or his Landline 00 33 (0) 476 09 86 11.

Similar arrangements will apply in reverse on Tuesday to take you back to Geneva (with a different driver).

www.hotel-gallia.com

Directions to the hotel and meeting venue will be circulated once we have confirmed your attendance.

We regret that there is currently no funding for hotels and travel costs. Hilde Roysland will be able to issue an official invitation if your institution requires one.

Contact	email
Geir Karlsen - project leader & WP1	Geir.karlsen@plu.ntnu.no
Peter Gray - project coordinator	graypb@gmail.com
Hilde Røysland - project administrator	hilde.roysland@svt.ntnu.no
Leader WP2	doris.jorde@ils.uio.no
Leader WP3	prenzel@ipn.uni-kiel.de
Leader WP4 & coordinator for Grenoble	michel.grangeat@upmf-grenoble.fr
Leaders WP 5/6/7	To be arranged
Leader WP8	Tina.Seidel@uni-jena.de

We look forward to a productive partnership and an enjoyable collaboration!

Participants Confirmed for Grenoble

Name	From
Geir Karlsen	Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim
Hilde Roysland	as above
Per Andresen	As above
Margareta Enghag	Mälardalen University, Vasteras, Sweden
Matthias Stadler	IPN, Kiel, Germany
Dalius Dapkus	Vilnius Pedagogical University, Lithuania
Nijole Ciuciulkiene	Kaunas Technological University, Lithuania
Doris Jorde	University of Oslo, Norway
Michel Grangeat	Université Pierre Mendès-France, Grenoble
Gerard SENSEVY	IUFM/CREAD/ Université de Haute-Bretagne, France
Andrée Tiberghien	Université Lyon-2, France
Jim McNally	University of Stirling, Scotland, UK
Allan Blake	as above
Colin Smith	University of Stirling, Scotland, UK
Maria Pilar Jimenez Aleixandre	University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Bob Evans	University of Copenhagen
Iva Stuchlikova	University of Southern Bohemia, Czech Republic
Jan Petr	As above

Name	From
Liselott Forsman	Abo Akademi University, Finland
Peter Gray	Co-ordinator

Thinking allowed

More WP thoughts

WPs 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 seem to me to be relatively easy to grasp, in that they provide different forms of quality assurance. WP1 ensures timing, financial and administrative compliance. WP2 ensures that we are in tune with policy. WP3 provides a model of a successful intervention as a comparator. WP9 ensures that all deliverables will be evaluated or measured for impact in some way (as an integral part of the project and entirely separately from the external evaluation as required by FP7). WP10 ensures the production quality of deliverables.

We then have WPs 4, 6, 7 and 8. These provide evidence as to what is happening in schools, in the four areas of teacher collaboration, scientific literacy, argumentation and dialogic teaching, together with some specialist sub-areas such as the ‘competitive science’ work of University of Southern Bohemia. This seems to me to be appropriate given that the area of methods will have been comprehensively covered by *Mind the Gap*. The topics here go beyond methods and reflect deeper principles of school-based activity.

Finally, and in the centre, we have WP5. This is the crucial WP where all the learning and experience from the classroom comes together and is translated into teacher education practice, via our training packages, DVDs/resource banks etc. The learning then extends back out from teacher education into the classroom and thus into quality teaching and motivated students.

Or something like that....

And to end on a furry note...

Dr Ayelet Baram-Tsabari from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology with an endangered project member (a Chinese red panda) (thanks Ayelet)



WE ARE:

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (coordinator) University of Oslo Université Pierre Mendès-France, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique University of Bristol Kaunas University of Technology University of Southern Bohemia Vilnius Pedagogical University University of Copenhagen University of Leeds Friedrich Schiller University of Jena University of Stirling Leibniz Institute for Science Education at the University of Kiel Universidade de Santiago de Compostela Helsinki University University of Tallinn Technion – Israel Institute of Technology Mälardalen University Hacettepe University Hungarian Research Teachers’ Association Abo Akademi University Gazi University Aarhus Universitet European University Université Rennes 2-Haute Bretagne University of Jyväskylä